US Army Corps
of Engineers
Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

# Public Notice

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| APPLICATION NO.: | SAJ-200308490 |
| EVALUATOR: | Ms. Susan A. Jarvis |
| PHONE NO.: | (601) 631-5146 |
| FAX NO.: | (601) 631-5459 |
| E-MAIL: | regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil |
| DATE: | February 11, 2004 |
| EXPIRATION DATE: | March 3, 2004 |

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A (3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Louisiana Department of
Transportation and Development
Post Office Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Location of Work: Sections 6, 7, 18, and 20 of T8N-R1E and sections 3, 4, 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 30, and 31 of T9N-R1E, latitude 31° 44' 49" longitude 92° 23' 44", within the Little River and Castor River drainage basins, Grant and LaSalle Parishes, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill 33.71 acres of wetlands and 7.28 acres of other waters of the United States associated with the construction and maintenance of the widening and overlay of U.S. Highway 165.

The project would begin on U.S. Highway 165 near the intersection with Louisiana Highway 123 and extend in a northerly direction past the village of Georgetown and the town of Tullos ending at approximately 0.6 mile north of the intersection with U.S. Highway 84. At the project start, the existing roadway between Louisiana Highway 123 and Georgetown will generally remain in place with only a minor adjustment required through an existing curve. Two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway, separated from the existing roadway with a depressed median varying in width from 66 feet to 108 feet, would be constructed parallel to the existing highway. A portion of the new lanes will run parallel to the east of the existing highway from STA. No. 0+510 to 6+530 while the remaining portion of the new lanes will run parallel to the west of the existing highway from STA. No. 7+220 to 10+500. Between Georgetown and Tullos, Louisiana, the existing roadway would remain in place for southbound traffic and two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway, separated from the existing highway with a depressed median varying in width from 66 feet to 132 feet would be constructed for northbound traffic. A portion of the new lanes would run parallel to the east of the existing highway from STA. No. 11+100 to 18+100 and the remaining portion of the new lanes would run parallel to the west of the existing highway from STA. No. 19+360 to 39+330. Each lane would be 12 feet wide. Roadbed dimensions would average 40 feet top width and 125 feet bottom width. The average cleared right-of-way width would be 250 feet to a maximum of 460 feet at the U.S. Highway 165 overpass in Georgetown. This proposed project would require approximately 697,957 cubic yards of general excavation and 1,524,904 cubic yards of embankment. The project would be approximately 13.7 miles in length.

The purpose of the work is to widen and upgrade the existing U.S. Highway 165 roadway to provide a four lane northeast-southwest link between I-20 at Monroe, Louisiana and I-10 at Lake Charles, Louisiana to improve vehicular mobility and to improve accessibility along the U.S. Highway 165 corridor by increasing the safety and level of service of the highway.

The proposed project calls for the existing U.S. Highway 165, from the intersection with Louisiana Highway 123 in Grant Parish to just north of the intersection with U.S. Highway 84 in Tullos, LaSalle Parish to be four-laned and upgraded to meet current transportation standards. This proposed project is the result of legislation created in 1989 known as the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED), which designated certain highways and transportation facilities for improvement. One objective of the TIMED program is to ensure that a four-laned highway connects most major urban areas of the state. The four-laning of the U.S. Highway 165 is an important element in linking central Louisiana with areas of north Louisiana to the Arkansas state line.

A total of 42 sites were delineated and 23 sites were identified as wetlands, which would be impacted by the project. Sites A06 and A07 covered an area located in the vicinity of Station No. (STA.) 2+280 to 2+980 and would impact approximately 3.505 acres of wetlands. Site A09 and A10 covered an area located in the vicinity of STA. 3+440 to 4+370 and would impact approximately 1.13 acres of wetlands. Site A14 was located in the vicinity of STA. 5+300 and would impact approximately 1.14 acres of wetlands. Sites A17 through A23 covered an area located in the vicinity of STA.6+530 to 10+500 and would impact approximately 15.13 acres of wetlands. Sites B02 through B07 covered an area located in the vicinity of STA. 14+980 to 15+330 and would impact approximately 1.75 acres of wetlands. Sites B12 through B15 covered an area located in the vicinity of STA. 15+910 to 18+100 and would impact approximately 11.05 acres of wetlands.

The dominant species of vegetation at the 23 delineated wetland sites include: Acer rubrum, Alternantha philoxeroides, Ampelopsis arborea, Andropogon virginicus, Arundinaria gigantean, Axonopus affinis, Baccharis halimifolia, Berchemia scandens, Betula nigra, Boehmeria cylindrical, Brunnichia cirrhosa, Campsis radicans, Carpiinus caroliniana, Carya aquatica, Cephalanthus occidentalis, Chasmanthium latifolium, Commenlina sp., Croton sp., Cyperus sp., Dichanthelium sp., Diospyros virginiana, Eleocharis minima, Forestiera acuminata, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Gelsenium sempervirens, Fagus grandfolia, Ilex deciduas, Ligustrum vulgare,

Ligustrum sinense, Liquidambar styraciflua, Lonicera japonica, Lygodium japonicum, Magnolia grandiflora, Myrica cerifa, Nyssa sylvatica, Ostrya virginiana, Paspalum sp., Panicum virgatum, Pinus taeda, Planera aquatica, Platanus occidentalis, Polygonum sp., Rubus trivialis, Rubus sp., Quercus falcate, Quercus lyrata, Quercus nigra, Quercus phellos, Sabal minor, Salix nigra, Sapium sebiferum, Saururus radicans, Ulmus alata, Ulmus Americana, Vaccinium elliottii, Vitus rotundifolia, Xyris sp.

A total of approximately 33.705 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project including cleared right-of-way. The applicant proposes to begin mitigation for the wetlands being impacted by construction activities for this project by minimizing impacts in accordance with their standard specifications. Unavoidably lost wetland functions and values would be appropriately mitigated.

A total of 7.28 acres of other waters of the United States would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project including the cleared right-of-way. Thirty-three of the 42 delineated sites were identified as other waters of the United States. The locations and amounts of impacts for these sites are shown in the Wetland Delineation Site Summary Tables (A and B sites).

The existing bridge over the Indian Creek located at STA. 8+395 to 8+450 would be replaced with two new concrete slab span bridges. There are six (6) existing bridges that would require no work associated with wetland impacts. These existing bridges are at: the Indian Creek relief located in the vicinity of STA. 9+045 to 9+075, the Bear Creek located in the vicinity of STA. 10+050 to 10+120, a railroad overpass located in the vicinity of STA. 12+345 to 12+720, the Little River located in the vicinity of STA. 16+160 to 16+370, an unnamed slough located in the vicinity of STA. 16+735 to 16+895 and the Cochran Creek located in the vicinity of STA. to 17+180.

The proposed bridge over Little Creek located in the vicinity of STA. 2+806 to 2+854 would be a concrete slab span bridge and would be replacing a box culvert located in the vicinity of STA. 2+820. The proposed bridges over the Indian Creek located in the vicinity STA. 8+399 to 8+447 and the Indian Creek relief located in the vicinity of STA. 9+043 to 9+079 would be concrete slab bridges. The proposed bridge over Bear Creek would be a concrete slab span bridge located in the vicinity of STA. 10+051 to 10+117. Impacts to the wetlands associated with the bridge construction would include approach and revetment work.

A herbaceous wetland located in the vicinity of STA. 12+194.5 to 12+767.1 would be crossed with a concrete slab span bridge. Two proposed bridges crossing over the Little River and an unnamed slough would be a multi-span Portland cement girder bridge and a Portland cement concrete bridge, respectively located in the vicinity of STA. 16+160.8 to 16+384.2 and STA. 16+735 to 16+895. The proposed bridge over Cochran Creek would be a Portland cement concrete girder bridge located in the vicinity of STA. 16+160.8 to 16+384.2. Two proposed bridges over the Cochran Creek Relief located in the vicinity of STA. 17+634 to 17+706 would be concrete span bridges and one of the proposed bridges would replace an existing box culvert.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and levee construction requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Grant or LaSalle Parishes listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

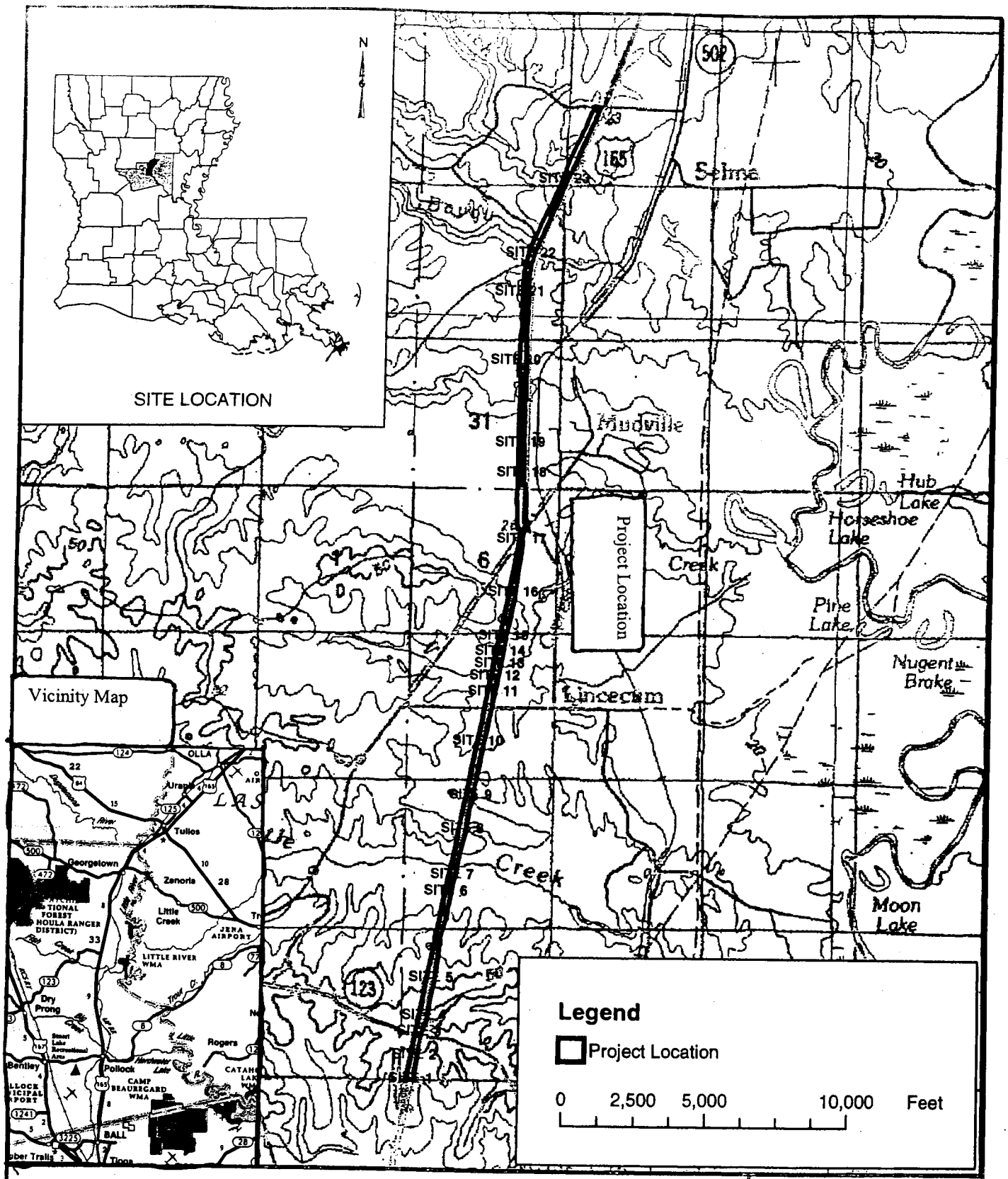
Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this

information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp , or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp .

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader
Evaluation Section




**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

US Highway 165, LA 123 to Georgetown, Grant Parish
State Project No. 015-04-0038

USGS 1:100,000 Series Winnfield (1997) Quadrangle

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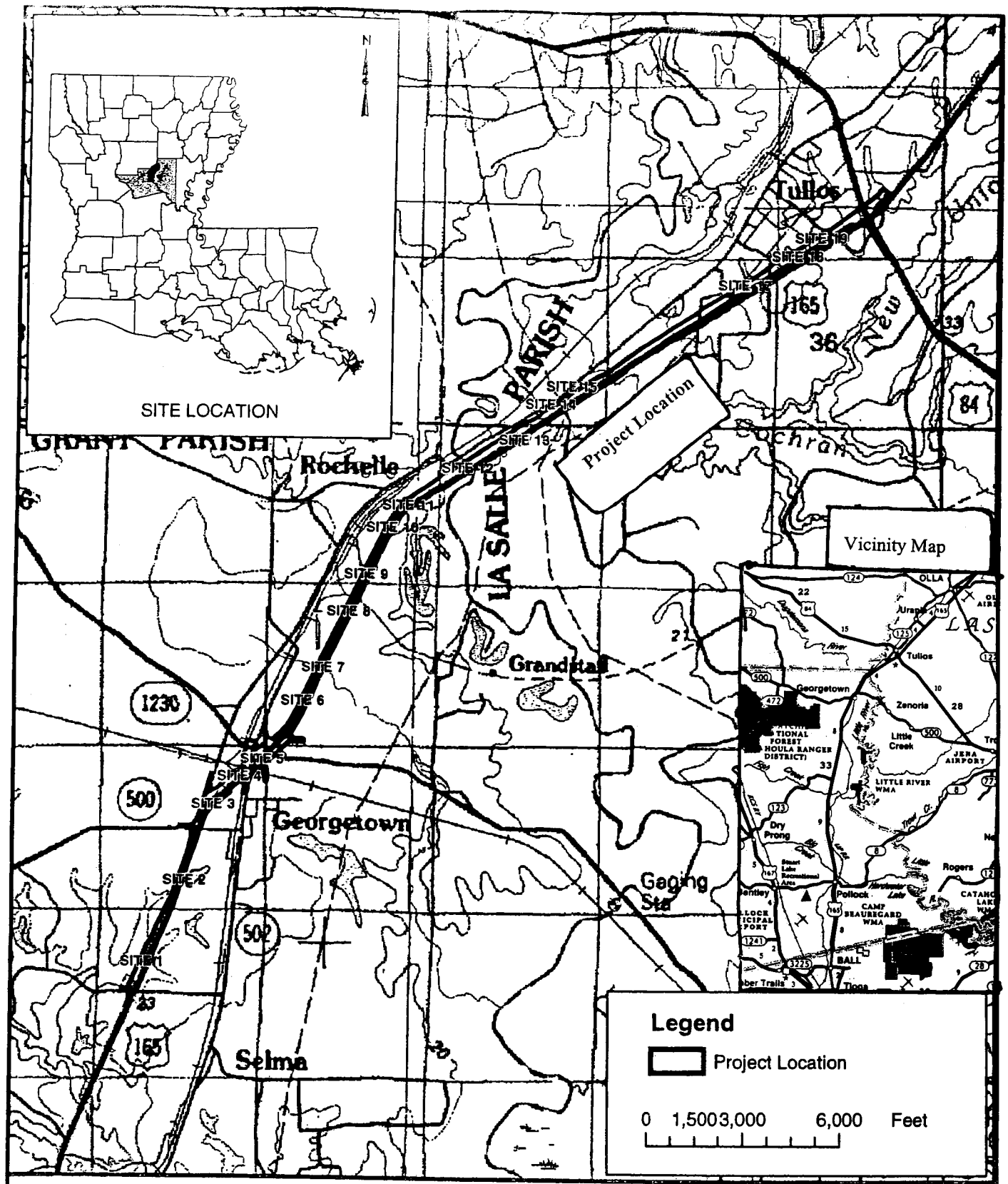
**WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 1**
**STATE PROJECT NO. 015-04-0038**
**U.S. Highway 165, LA Hwy 123 – Georgetown, Grant Parish, LA**
**SITES (A01-A23)**

| Site | Station | | Wetlands | Other Waters | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Start | End | | | |
| A01 | 0+510 | 0+550 | 0.0 | 0.1 | Drain (H) |
| A02 | 0+700 | 0+800 | 0.0 | 0.1 | Drain (P/H) |
| A03 | 1+020 | 1+150 | 0.0 | 0.05 | Drain (P/H) |
| A04 | 1+180 | 1+250 | 0.0 | 0.1 | Drain (P/H) |
| A05 | 1+840 | 1+870 | 0.0 | 0.03 | Drain (P/H) |
| A06 | 2+280 | 2+280 | 0.005 | 0.0 | Drain (P/H) |
| A07 | 2+500 | 2+980 | 3.5 | 0.3 | T/BLH |
| A08 | 3+230 | 3+260 | 0.0 | 0.03 | Drain (PP) |
| A09 | 3+440 | 3+680 | 1.05 | 0.2 | T/BLH |
| A10 | 4+160 | 4+370 | 0.08 | 0.0 | RD |
| A11 | 4+850 | 4+850 | 0.0 | 0.13 | Drain (P/H) |
| A12 | 4+970 | 4+970 | 0.0 | 0.16 | Drain (P/H) |
| A13 | 5+050 | 5+050 | 0.0 | 0.03 | Drain (P/H) |
| A14 | 5+170 | 5+300 | 1.14 | 0.0 | BLH |
| A15 | 5+430 | 5+460 | 0.0 | 0.04 | Drain (P/H) |
| A16 | 5+900 | 5+900 | 0.0 | 0.04 | Drain (P/H) |
| A17 | 6+530 | 6+530 | 0.03 | 0.0 | HW |
| A18 | 7+220 | 7+310 | 0.26 | 0.0 | RD/HW |
| A19 | 7+530 | 7+650 | 0.90 | 0.12 | T/BLH |
| A20 | 8+180 | 8+710 | 5.69 | 0.58 | IC/BLH |
| A21 | 8+710 | 9+350 | 5.15 | 0.2 | T/BLH |
| A22 | 9+500 | 9+710 | 2.35 | 0.0 | T/BLH |
| A23 | 9+960 | 10+500 | 0.75 | 0.78 | BC/BLH |
| **Totals** | | | 20.905 | 2.99 | |

H – Hardwood Community, P/H – Pine/Hardwood Community, PP – Pine Plantation, RD – Roadside Ditch, P – Pine Community, BLH – Bottomland Hardwood Community, T – Tributary, IC – Indian Creek, BC - Bear Creek




**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

US Highway 165, Georgetown to Tullos, Grant and LaSalle Parishes
State Project No. 015-04-0039

USGS 1:100,000 Series Winnfield (1997) Quadrangle

GEC
Gulf Engineers & Consultants

Figure: 03 of 30

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**WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 2**
**STATE PROJECT NO. 015-04-0039**
**U.S. Highway 165, Georgetown – Tullos, Grant-LaSalle Parishes, LA**
**SITES (B01-B19)**

| Site | Station | | Wetlands | Other Waters | Non-jurisdictional waters | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B01 | 10+000 | 10+500 | 0.0 | 0.48 | 0.0 | Drain (P/H) |
| B02 | 11+100 | 11+160 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.0 | Drain (P/H) |
| B03 | 11+870 | 12+060 | 1.10 | 0.0 | 0.24 | RD (P/H) |
| B04 | 12+360 | 12+490 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.16 | RD (HW) |
| B05 | 12+520 | 12+900 | 0.47 | 0.0 | 0.08 | BLH |
| B06 | 13+340 | 13+380 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.0 | Drain (HW) |
| B07 | 13+670 | 13+800 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.0 | Drain (P/H) |
| B08 | 14+360 | 14+380 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.03 | Drain (P/H) |
| B09 | 14+750 | 14+780 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.05 | Drain (PP) |
| B10 | 14+980 | 15+330 | 0.0 | 0.16 | 0.06 | Drain (P/H) |
| B11 | 15+550 | 15+610 | 0.0 | 0.06 | 0.0 | Drain (H) |
| B12 | 15+910 | 16+430 | 2.78 | 1.69 | 0.0 | LC (BLH/FW) |
| B13 | 16+440 | 17+070 | 4.42 | 1.12 | 0.0 | LC (CS/BLH) |
| B14 | 17+110 | 17+380 | 1.5 | 0.28 | 0.0 | CC (BLH) |
| B15 | 17+500 | 18+100 | 2.35 | 0.14 | 0.0 | Drain (BLH) |
| B16 | 19+350 | 19+360 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.02 | Drain (PP) |
| B17 | 19+480 | 19+520 | 0.0 | 0.03 | 0.0 | Drain (P/H) |
| B18 | 39+010 | 39+100 | 0.0 | 0.02 | 0.0 | Drain (P/H) |
| B19 | 39+290 | 39+330 | 0.0 | 0.14 | 0.0 | Drain (P/H) |
| **Totals** | | | 12.80 | 4.29 | 0.64 | |

P/H – Pine/Hardwood Community, RD – Roadside Ditch, HW – Herbaceous Wetland,
BLH –Bottomland Hardwood Community, PP – Pine Plantation, H – Hardwood Community,
FW – Forested Wetland, CS – Cypress Swamp , CC- Cochran Creek, LC – Little Creek